



April 2013

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter
Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

www.ebcnps.org

www.groups.google.com/group/ebcnps

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Working to Protect Oakland's Best Kept Secret: Knowland Park

Speaker: Mack Casterman

Wednesday, April 24, 7:30 pm

Location: Garden Room, Orinda Public Library (directions below)



Knowland Park is a jewel in the southern Oakland foothills. Home to rolling acres of remnant native grassland and a stand of rare maritime chaparral, the park was listed as one of East Bay CNPS's

Botanical Priority Protection Areas in 2010. The park was originally purchased by the State of California as a state park and in 1975 was conveyed to the City of Oakland, making Knowland Park Oakland's largest and finest wildland park. Unfortunately, what should already be a conservation success story has instead turned into one of the East Bay Chapter's greatest conservation challenges.

Mack Casterman's presentation will include a virtual tour of Knowland Park and a description of the park's most interesting botanical resources. Mack will also discuss EBCNPS's ongoing effort to gain permanent protection for the park. You will learn about current threats to the park's valuable native habitats and hear an update of what EBCNPS and the "Knowland Park Coalition" have been doing to raise awareness and mobilize the public on behalf of this wonderful place. Attendees will leave with a greater understanding of our "Foothills of Southern Oakland" Botanical Priority Protection Area and EBCNPS's ongoing work to ensure that this wonderful wildland gem, located just minutes from downtown Oakland, is permanently protected for future generations to enjoy and learn from..

Mack Casterman is the East Bay Chapter's Conservation Analyst. He works closely with the Conservation Chair, East Bay CNPS volunteers, and board members. Mack's duties include responding to development projects through the CEQA process, representing CNPS on various boards and committees, and educating the public and stakeholders about plant conservation in California. The Knowland Park issue was one of the first projects Mack worked on upon stepping into the position in spring of 2011, and over two years later, it is a project that still occupies his time on a weekly basis. Mack has a degree in Environmental Biology and Natural Resources Management from UC Davis. Before coming to work with EBCNPS, he worked for the San Mateo County Department of Parks as well as the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting takes place in the Auditorium of the Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). The Auditorium is on the second floor of the building, accessible by stairs or an elevator. The Auditorium opens at 7 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Call 510-496-6016 or email rosacalifornica@earthlink.net if you have questions.

Directions to Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way:

From the west, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda/Moraga exit. At the end of the off ramp, turn left on Camino Pablo (toward Orinda Village), right on Santa Maria Way (the signal after the BART station and freeway entrance), and left on Orinda Way. From the east, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda exit. Follow the ramp to Orinda Village. Turn right on Santa Maria way (the first signal) and left on Orinda Way. Once on Orinda Way, go 1 short block to the parking lot on the southeast side of the two-story building on your right. There is additional free parking beneath the building as well as on the street.

From BART (4 blocks): Exit the Orinda station, turn right and cross a pedestrian bridge, then cross a second pedestrian bridge on the left. Go 1 short block on the sidewalk to the third pedestrian bridge. Go 2 blocks on Orinda Way to the Orinda Library.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, April 20, 9:30 am, Burma Road at Mount Diablo State Park

Meet at 9:30 am at the Burma Road crossing of North Gate Road in Mount Diablo State Park. We will walk Burma Road from Camel Rock to Moses Rock Spring. We will see a variety of spring flowers and some uncommon plants as we pass through woodland, grassland and chaparral areas. There is a 1000-foot elevation gain on the way out, and downhill on the way back. The round trip is about 4 miles and should take about 4 hours, so bring lunch and water. We will not be deterred by rain and will proceed regardless of weather. Call Gregg Weber at 510-223-3310 if you have questions about this or other Mt. Diablo field trips.

Directions: Take the North Gate Road entrance to the park. State parks charge \$10 for cars. Continue on North Gate Road for about 3 miles and park at the Angel Kerley Trailhead. Don't meet at the Burma Road crossing as in previous years.

Sunday, April 21 at 1:00. Come see the flower blooms around some of the last intact vernal pools in the East Bay.

Participants should see endangered Contra Costa goldfields (*Lasthenia conjugens*), as well as *Downingia pulchella*, several *Plagiobothrys*, and other native vernal pool and upland species. A refuge docent will lead a tour of the Warm Springs Unit of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR. The walking tour will last about 1.5-2 hours. Total walking distance will not exceed one mile, but terrain is uneven. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress according to the weather. Heavy rain will cancel.

Directions: We will meet off Cushing Boulevard in Fremont. Take 880 to the Fremont Blvd. / Cushing Parkway Exit. Exit 13B toward Cushing. Turn left on Fremont (if you are coming from the north, turn right on Fremont) and right on Cushing Parkway. Pass the light at Northport Loop. On the left side, immediately after the LAM business park, there will be a blue pipe gate across a gravel road. We will meet here.

Ivette Loreda, Wildlife Refuge Specialist, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR, 1 Marshlands Road, Fremont, 94555. 510-792-4725 x134 (office phone), 510-792-5828 (fax), 510-377-5956 (cell).

On Saturday, April 27, join EBCNPS on a day trip to Bear Valley and Walker Ridge to see spring wildflowers. Bear Valley and adjacent Walker Ridge, about two hours north of the Bay Area, have been described by Stephen Edwards in *Fremontia* as of national park quality, a remnant of what the Sacramento valley may have looked like in centuries past. Walker Ridge contains one of the top three serpentine areas in California.

Jack Alderson of the Mt. Lassen Chapter of CNPS will lead us on a driving loop of the area, starting at the south end of Bear Valley, then the west up to the Ridge, then south along the Ridge back to where we started. The trip is expected to take 5 hours, a combination of driving and botanizing.

Please be advised:

*there are no facilities (toilets or drinking water)

*we will be driving on rough rocky dirt road, make sure to bring your spare tire!

Carpooling is appreciated, to keep the number of cars to a minimum—you can use our Meetup page to offer and look for rides: <http://tinyurl.com/c4rgwf5>

We will meet at 11 am at the intersection of CA-20 and CA-16. Wait for us in the wide spot in road across from the CA fire station.

Directions:

From San Francisco or Berkeley/Oakland:

Take I-80 East towards Sacramento. After 40+ miles depending on your starting point, take exit 56 to get on I-505 N towards Winters/Redding. After 34 miles, merge onto I-5 North. After 24 miles, take exit 578 for CA-20 W toward Clearlake/Colusa. Go about 19 miles to the intersection of CA 16 and CA 20.

From Contra Costa County:

Take 680 N. Cross the Benecia bridge, continue until exit 71A to reach I-80 E toward Sacramento. After about 14 miles take exit 56 for I-505 N towards Winters/Redding. After 34 miles, merge onto I-5 North. After 24 miles, take exit 578 for CA-20 W toward Clearlake/Colusa. Go about 19 miles to the intersection of CA 16 and CA 20.

Sunday, April 28, 9:30 am, East Trail at Mount Diablo State Park

Meet across from the Divide Reservoir sign on Marsh Creek Road in Clayton. This trip goes through some very nice native plant habitat on the northeast side of Mount Diablo, with an interesting live oak forest.

Saturday May 4, Black Diamond Regional Park

We will botanize a large hillside filled with an impressive variety of Native plants. We will be going on the Riverview loop trail, and Arata overlook trail. Gregg Weber will lead.

Directions: Take Highway 4 to the Somersville Road exit in Antioch, then drive south (toward the hills) on Somersville Road to the Preserve entrance.

Sunday, May 12, 2:00 pm, Pioneer Tree Trail at Samuel Taylor State Park in Marin County

Cross the Richmond Bridge and take Sir Francis Drake Boulevard across the county (the road goes through the park). Enter and park in the main picnic area (there is a fee) and meet in the group picnic area parking lot. David Margolies will lead.

Verifiable knowledge makes its way slowly, and only under cultivation, but fable has burrs and feet and claws and wings and an indestructible sheath like weed-seed, and can be carried almost anywhere and take root without benefit of soil or water.

BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES GARDEN TOUR

Registration for the Ninth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which will take place on Sunday, May 5, 2013 from 10:00 to 5:00, is now open. This free, award-winning tour features forty Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens that are pesticide-free, conserve water, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 60% or more native plants. This self-drive tour showcases a variety of gardens, from large parcels in the hills to small lots in the flats. Native plant sales and talks are offered at select gardens. Space is limited and registration is required. This tour will fill, so register early to ensure a place.

Volunteers are needed. Please register or volunteer at <http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/>
Companion events: The Native Plant Sale Extravaganza will take place throughout the weekend of May 4 and May 5. Select Tours, small group, guided tours and workshops, will take place throughout April and May. See the website for details.

Kathy Kramer

SUDDEN OAK DEATH

April 27-28: Help Track Sudden Oak Death in the East Bay Hills

Your help is needed for the 2013 East Bay "blitz" survey tracking Sudden Oak Death. This fungus-like water mold has killed large numbers of tanoaks and oaks in the cool, moist coastal areas of Northern California since the 1990s. The pathogen seems to spread mostly via infected bay trees. No cure has been found, but well-timed action can slow the spread and save specific trees, as well as the many birds and other wild creatures that depend on oaks. For that, we need to know where the SOD pathogen is spreading.

The biggest methodological change this year is represented by the possibility of establishing permanent monitoring trees. This may be instrumental in finding out which trees in your neighborhood allow for survival of the SOD pathogen during droughts. In order to be able to tag a tree as a permanent monitoring tree, you will need to have a GPS device or a phone with GPS function. So if you are interested in doing that, please come to the blitz meeting with such a device. You will be provided with everything else you may need.

East Bay SOD Blitz is April 27-28. There are two meetings to choose from:

10AM, Orinda, Garden Room, Orinda Public Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda.

Contact Bill Hudson - wllhh@gmail.com to sign up.

1:00 pm, Berkeley, 159 Mulford Hall, on the UC Berkeley campus

To sign up: www.sod2013.eventzilla.net.

After the one-hour training you survey on your own schedule, returning samples to a drop box at Mulford Hall by Monday morning, April 29. You can survey in your own back yard, or anywhere outdoors. Co-sponsors including Friends of Five Creeks (f5creeks@aol.com), Friends of Sausal Creek (coordinator@sausalcreek.org), and Garber Park Stewards (garberparkstewards@gmail.com) are happy to suggest routes that fit your walking abilities.

For complete information on the SOD Blitz Project, including other meeting dates throughout the Bay Area: www.sodblitz.org. For general information on Sudden Oak Death, also go to www.suddenoakdeath.org.

Either we have hope within us or we don't.

It is a dimension of the soul and is not essentially dependent on some particular observation of the world.

It is an orientation of the spirit, an orientation of the heart.

It transcends the world that is immediately experienced and is anchored somewhere beyond its horizons.

Hope in this deep and powerful sense is not the same as joy that things are going well or willingness to invest in enterprises that are obviously headed for early success, but rather an ability to work for something because it is good, not because it stands a chance to succeed.

Hope is definitely not the same thing as optimism.

It is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense regardless of how it turns out.

Vaclav Havel

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE ON LOCAL NATIVES UPDATED



Now Available!

Annotated Checklist of the East Bay Flora
Native and Naturalized Vascular Plants of Alameda and Contra
Costa Counties, California
second edition

Barbara Ertter and Lech Naumovich
April 2013

The *Checklist* is a wonderful source of information about all the plants growing in the open spaces in our two counties. Each plant is listed alphabetically by species and coded native or introduced, by its habit (herbaceous, woody, fern, grass), where it is found, how common or rare it is and some

identification notes. All names are current with the second edition of *The Jepson Manual, Vascular Plants of California*, with cross-references inserted and a list of genera by family in the back.

There is a section on how to use the manual, an interesting description of the geographic sections and subunits used with a colorful map, and many references.

The *Checklist* is now on sale at Native Here Nursery for \$16. In other locales, the *Checklist* will be \$15 plus 1.28 tax in Contra Costa County and \$15 plus 1.35 tax in Alameda County. The *Checklist* will be for sale at chapter programs.



Clint Kellner and Barbara Ertter



Holly Forbes and Anna Larsen



Russell Huddleston



Melissa Mooney

Attendees at the California Botanical Society Centennial Symposium were the first to be able purchase the new East Bay Checklist. A few of them are shown above and on the previous page below in photos taken by Delia Taylor.

NATIVE HERE NURSERY



Susan Holtslander has been getting ferns ready to sell. Photo by Janice Bray.

Volunteers are needed to take on watering duties now through fall. Come in when the nursery is open to arrange the best schedule for you and the plants.

Seedlings are emerging and that keeps several volunteers busy at the potting benches. Come learn from the more experienced potters.

Ferns from the Oakland hills are available now for purchase in one and two gallon containers. *Iris douglasiana* will continue to be offered until the second week of May when they will go back into the plant storage area until the optimum time for planting out in the fall. Four inch pots of *Eschscholzia californica* are available from a number of locations. Annuals offered this spring include some *Clarkia* species, quite a lot of *Collinsia heterophylla* from El Sobrante, and a variety of what we used to call "GDYC"s, when *Asteraceae* was called *Compositae* (*Madia*, *Agoseris*, *Acharrachaena*, etc.).

Volunteers are still welcome to sign up (e-mail nativehere@ebcnps.org) to help with the "treasure hunt" and write up sales on Saturday, May 4 when Native Here will be open from 10-5 as part of the Bringing Back the Natives Nursery Extravaganza (see www.bringingbackthenatives.com for more information on the Garden Tour and Nursery Extravaganza).

Feel free to use the coupon below when you purchase trees this spring. You may print as many copies as trees you intend to purchase.

Native Here will be open Tuesday afternoons noon-3; Friday mornings 9-noon; and Saturdays 10-2 through April.

Charli Daniels

\$10 off
any five gallon *Quercus agrifolia*, *Quercus lobata*, or
Aesculus californica purchased from Native Here Nursery
April 12 through May 15, 2013

2013 CONSERVATION ANALYST FUNDRAISER

2013 Conservation Analyst Fundraiser
\$30,062 raised towards goal of \$40,000

Help keep our professional Conservation Analyst, Mack Casterman, on our team!

Contributions may be sent to the Chapter's Elmwood Station address. Checks should be made to "CNPS", with a memo that the check is for the Conservation Analyst Fund. You may contribute via PayPal on the Chapter's website at ebcnps.org. Thank you!

We are very grateful to the following donors who have contributed to the Chapter and the 2013 Conservation Analyst Fund:

John Alcorn, Mary Alderson, Karen Asbelle, Eleanor Bade, Laura Baker and Lewis Lubin, Heath Bartosh, Bob Battagin, Laura Beckett, Linda and Richard Beidelman, Robert and Evelyn Berman, Martha Berthelsen, Bruce Beyaert, David Bigham and Howard Arendtson, Arla Bonnett, Martha Breed, Shelagh Brodersen, Zelda Bronstein, Margaret Brostrom, Roy Buck, Amida Cary, Bob Case, Carmen Castain, Carol and John Casterman, Carol and Pedro Castro, Dan Cheatham, Albert Chung, Patricia Coffey, Robert and Carol Coon, Beverly Cover, Mary Frances Dahlquist, Charli and John Danielsen, Elizabeth Davidson, Adrienne Debisschop, William Dejager, Mark Detterman, John and Lisa Doyen, Mary Dreiman, Sue Duckles, Christopher Erickson, Barbara Ertter, James and Betsy Flack, Holly Forbes and Gerald Ford, Norman Frank, Gordon Frankie, Dorothy Frantz, Lisa Frost, Sara Gabriel, Janet Gawthrop, Clara Gerdes, Kathleen Gilcrest, Dan Gluesenkamp, Marilyn and Amos Goldhaber, Michael Graf, Katherine Greenberg, Sandy Greenwald, Judith Ann Gurbaxani, Anthon Hahne, Joan Hamilton, Mary Ann Hanon, Jim Hanson, Joyce Hawley, Miao He, Claudia and Scott Hein, Daniel Hill, Kristin Homme, Kristin Hopper, Justine Hume, Lesley and Bill Hunt, Grace Hyde, Carolyn Jacobs, Anni Jensen and Carol J Manahan, Dwight Johnson, Philip Johnson, Robert Jolda, Larry Jones, Nicole Jurjavcic, Timothy Kask, Elizabeth Katz, Megan Keever, Tom and Jane Kelly, John Kenny, Caroline Kim, Julie Kinder, Marian Kirch and Cynthia Siegel, Gudrun Kleist, Marcia Kolb, Jill Korte, Kathy Kramer, Christopher Kroll, Arvind Kumar and Ashok Jethanandani, Watson Laetsch, Eve Lednický, Barbara and Philip Leitner,

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In memory of Barbara Louie, a long time volunteer at Native Here Nursery:

Margot Cunningham, Sara Goolsby, Delia Taylor

In honor of Delia Taylor
Mary Alderson

Thanks to the following organizations who have made generous contributions to the Chapter:

Berkeley Garden Club
Earthly Delights
Oaktown Native Nursery
Piedmont Garden Club
Prestige Printing and Graphics, San Ramon
Stout Foundation.

Beauty is a manifestation of secret natural laws, which otherwise would have been hidden from us forever.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

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EBCNPS Sponsored Activities

Native Here Nursery

510-549-0211
Manager—Charli Daniels
nativehere@ebcnps.org

Sales—Margot Cunningham
bunchgrassmarg@gmail.com

Restoration

Huckleberry Regional Preserve

Janet Gawthrop, leader
janetgawthrop47@gmail.com

Point Isabel

Tom and Jane Kelly, leaders
510-704-8628 (w)
510-684-6484 (c)
kyotousa@sbcglobal.net

Marsh Creek

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925-957-0069
hbartosh@nomadecology.com

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925-372-0687
elainejx@att.net

Walnut Creek

Lesley Hunt, leader
925-937-6791
lldhunt@astound.net

Plant Fair

Charli Daniels, Chair
nativehere@ebcnps.org

Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

I wish to affiliate with:

___ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

___ Other _____

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1,
Sacramento CA 95816

Membership category:

- ___ Individual, \$45
- ___ Family, Library, Group or International, \$75
- ___ Plant lover, \$100
- ___ Patron, \$300
- ___ Benefactor, \$600
- ___ Mariposa Lily, \$1500
- ___ Limited Income or student, \$25.00
- ___ Other _____

RESTORATION

Saturday, April 20 9:00 am-noon, Earth Day in Garber Park

Join us for a morning of habitat restoration and cleanup in beautiful Garber Park and Claremont Canyon (near the Claremont Hotel). This year we are offering two project sites for you to choose from:

1) Help Clean-Up Claremont Avenue: Meet at the big parking turn-out near 7380 Claremont Ave. We will be picking up trash and removing invasive ivy from the trees and the area just behind the turnout. This is a large area and we will be working well off the road, but Claremont Avenue is a busy street so this site is not recommended for young children. We hope you can join us on our first Earth Day along Claremont Ave. Directions: From Ashby Avenue go .4 of a mile up Claremont Avenue. The parking turn-out is just beyond 7380 and across the street from 2646 Claremont Avenue. Look for our sign.

2) Remove invasives along Harwood Creek. Help pull cape ivy and poison hemlock along the Loop Trail and Restoration Site 2, where invasive weeds are rapidly surrounding our newly planted native plants along the creek. Everyone welcome. Meet at the Evergreen Lane Entrance. Directions: For Internet directions the nearest address is 144 Evergreen Lane, Berkeley. From Ashby Avenue, take Alvarado Road, then Slater Lane, then right onto Evergreen Lane. The entrance is at the end of the street. For a map go to www.garberparkstewards.org.

Wear long sleeves and pants and shoes with good treads. We provide snacks and drinks, tools and gloves (at both sites), but do bring your own gloves and water bottle if you have them.

The following is an excerpt from “Richard Wagner—The Continuing Appeal” by Andrew Porter, published in SF Opera Magazine (June 1999 Ring Festival). The writer is recalling a violent thunderstorm he experienced in the Bavarian Alps at the time of attending a cycle of the Wagner Ring, which is set along the Rhine River.

The point of these reminiscences is twofold. First, as a reminder that the Ring is set in the real world, in landscapes that Wagner knew—the world we still live in. Centuries later, we have changed some of its features. We’ve built factories on the banks of the river; we’ve bridged it; we’ve poured poison into its waters. But the river (as T.S. Eliot put it), although ‘almost forgotten by the dwellers in cities,’ although ‘unhonored, unpropitiated by worshippers of the machine,’ remains ‘untamed and intractable...implacable. Keeping his winter seasons and rages, destroyer, reminder / Of what men choose to forget.’ The Italians were reminded of that when the Arno, which normally trickles as a sluggish stream through Florence, suddenly rose some years ago to devastate the famous city. Productions of the Ring that neglect the strong flow of the Rhine—and most of the ten or so productions that I’ve seen have neglected it—neglect one of the things that give the Ring its continuing appeal: that sense of placing ephemeral man, whatever his all-consuming concerns of a particular moment may be, in a world that is older than he is, a world that will continue after man has ceased to be a part of it. The Ring is about individuals in society, about man among men. It is also about man in history, and man in nature.

For more information contact Shelagh, garberparkstewards@gmail.com or 510-540-1918.

Saturday, May 4 (first Saturday of each month), 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Pt. Isabel

We remove invasive plants and re-vegetate with native plants grown from plants found at the site. We are located at the end of Rydin Road just off the I-580 next to Hoffman Marsh. Contact e-mail: kyotousa@sbcglobal.net, cell: 510-684-6484.

Saturday, May 4, 9 am, Genista rip at Redwood Regional Park

This crew will continue to attack French broom. Redwood Park staff will provide water and tools, but you are free to bring your own tools if you prefer. Directions: From Oakland or Highway 24, take Highway 13 south, exit at Redwood Road (35th Avenue exit from 580). Turn left at the end of the exit ramp, and follow Redwood Road over the ridge, past Skyline, and continue downhill for about 3 miles. You will see an entrance sign on the right for Lake Chabot Regional Park, but keep going. The entrance to Redwood Regional Park will appear on your left a short distance further. Drive past the entrance kiosk, and go straight through on the entrance road until you see the signs for Canyon Meadow picnic area. From Castro Valley or other points south, take 580, exit at 35th Avenue, and turn right to follow 35th Avenue uphill. 35th Avenue will change its name to Redwood Road—follow the rest of the directions for Oakland. If you have questions, you can contact DRosario@ebparks.org or janetgawthrop47@gmail.com.